a continuous process. Efforts are continuously made to dispose off pending applications within the time frame set out for consideration of such proposals.

The investment in different parts of the country is basically guided by the commercial judgement of the investors which is based on various concessions & infrastructure facilities etc. provided by the respective State Government for industrial promotion as this the concern of State Government. Central Government, however, plays a supportive and pro-active role.

Encouragement to Auto Industry

1297. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to give fillip to auto industry; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Government has been continuously encouraging the growth of automotive sector. Industrial Licensing and capacity constraints have been removed. Commercial vehicles and auto components have been categorised as priority sector for foreign direct investment. For foreign equity participation upto 51% equity, the Reserve bank of India accords automatic approval. For equity participation involving more than 51% Government has been liberal in approving such cases. Since liberalisation, the automobile sector has shown a spectacular over all growth rate of over 20% (1993-94 to 1996-97) in the number of vehicles manufactured. Owing to slow down of the economy, this industry has been passing through a phase of sluggish growth during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99. To overcome the demand constraints high depreciation rate for commercial vehicles and scrapping of 15 years old vehicles in Delhi have been implemented. The thrust given for new housing and infrastructure initiatives for investment in road sector in the budget for 1999-2000 is likely to give further fillip for growth of this industry.

Monitoring of PMRY

1298. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any separate or special cell is operating in Prime Minister's Office to monitor Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, in what manner Prime Minister's Office is involved under the scheme;

(d) whether PMRY scheme has been recently reviewed, if so, the extent of success achieved under the scheme, so far;

(e) whether any suggestion to amend the scheme has come forth; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) No separate or special cell is operating in the Prime Minister's Office to monitor the Prime Minister, Rozgar Yojana. Periodic progress reports of the Prime Minister, Rozgar Yojana are sent to the Prime Minister's Office. Status notes on the implementation of the scheme for the States are also sent to the Prime Minister's Office as and when asked for.

(d) The scheme is constantly monitored and reviewed. Against the plan target of 9,20,000 beneficiaries, 10,38,090 cases were sanctioned and 7,61,758 cases were disbursed loans by banks from 1993-94 to 1997-98, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India.

(e) and (f) The scheme has been modified recently. The salient features of the modifications are age relaxation by 10 years for women, scheduled castes/ scheduled tribes, physically handicapped and ex-servicemen; the educational

qualification has been lowered to VIIIth passed; all economically viable activities including agriculture and allied activities but excluding direct agricultural operations like raising crop, purchase of manure, etc., have been brought under the ambit of the scheme. Further, from the forthcoming financial year, i.e., 1999-2000, project cost shall be revised from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 2.00 lakhs for all activities, except business activities.

Investment made by banks in Industries

1299. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total investment made in private industrial sector by banks, Financial Institutions indicating details in SSIs, medium and large scale industries during the last three years;

(b) what was the total bad debt reported/came to light in SSI units as well as in large scale/medium scale units during the above mentioned period; and

(c) what was the overall percentage of production/exports/employment generation figures reported separately by SSIs/medium/large scale industrial units in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) As per information available from the RBI, IDBI and other sources, the investment made in private industrial sector by banks, financial institutions in SSIs and medium and large industries during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. Crores)

At the end of March	Banks		
	SSIs	Medium/ Large	Total
1995	29175	74672	103847
1996	34246	93053	127299
1997	38196	102604	140800

Year	Financial Institutions		
	SSIs (SIDBI, SFCs)	Medium/Large	Total
1994-95	4827	28741	33568
1995-96	6689	26961	38650
1996-97	6336	36321	42657

(b) Reserve Bank of India have no information about bad debts reported/ came to light. However as per information available on sick SSI and Non-SSI units, the bank amount outstanding with industrial units was as under:

At the end of March	SSI	Non-SSI	Total
1995	3547	10192	13739
1996	3722	10026	13748
1997	3609	10178	13787